



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466

Elaine Suriano

OCT 19 1998

Ref: 8EPR-EP

VIA FACSIMILE AND MAIL

Lauren Mermejo, RMP Team Leader
Dixie Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management
345 E. Riverside Drive, Suite 102
St. George, UT 84790

Re: Dixie Resource Management Plan and
Final Environmental Impact
Statement

Dear Ms Mermejo:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), Region VIII of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Dixie Resource Area. We provided comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in early February, 1996.

EPA's comments on the DEIS were primarily focused on the environmental consequences of proposed activities in the Resource Area, cumulative effects analysis, public disclosure of potential effects, compliance with the State of Utah water quality standards, and consistency with other agencies' environmental planning and management activities. The development of a Proposed Plan for the Resource Area and analyzing the environmental consequences has provided the answers to most of EPA's concerns.

We are pleased to note the many opportunities open to collaborative management by relevant federal, state, local communities and other interest groups. The proposal to designate ten Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), four Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs), and the development of other management proscriptions should facilitate the effective and efficient management of public land in this Resource Area.

EPA maintains concerns with the development of the proposed water storage reservoir sites and strongly supports the need for comprehensive environmental impact analysis prior to approval of any potential reservoir identified in the

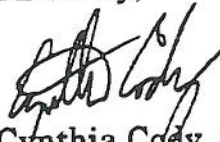


Printed on Recycled Paper

Resource Management Plan. We have no information in our files on the Sand Hollow Reservoir Project. We would appreciate a copy of the Project Report prepared by Greystone in July, 1997 and a copy of the Lake Powell Pipeline Feasibility Study prepared by Boyle Engineering in 1995.

If you have any questions, please call me at (303) 312-6228, or Mike Strieby, Project Review Coordinator at (303) 312-6002.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Cody, Chief
NEPA Unit
Ecosystem Protection Program

cc: Mike Strieby, EPA
Kate Padilla, EPA/BLM
Elaine Suriano, EPA HQ

